

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SNM-02 JUSE-00 DEAE-00 RSR-01 /086 W

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R 220500Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6161

INFO AMCONSUL NAHA

COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN

CG 313TH AD KADENA OKINAWA

CG USARBCO FORT BUCKNER OKINAWA

CG III MAF CAMP COURTNEY OKINAWA

CG MCG FORT BUTLER OKINAWA

CINCPAC CAMP SMITH HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10698

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, JA

SUBJECT: OKINAWA COURT SITUATION

REF: A. NAHA 332 (NOTAL) B. TOKYO 10580 (NOTAL)

1. REF A DESCRIBES HEAVY LOAD OF CASES INVOLVING AMERICANS, FREQUENTLY ON NARCOTICS CHARGES IN OKINAWAN COURTS. DESPITE JUDGES' INEXPERIENCE, COMPLEX LAWS AND LANGUAGE PROBLEMS NAHA STATES THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN FAIR AND CREDITABLE BUT SLOW, CASES SOMETIMES DRAGGING ON FOR FOUR TO SIX MONTHS. CASES INVOLVING AMERICANS SOMETIMES REQUIRE FIVE TIMES AMOUNT OF LABOR AND TIME REQUIRED FOR LOCAL CASES. GOJ CHIEF PROSECUTOR IN OKINAWA SHARES NAHA'S ASSESSMENT AND AGREES ON DESIRABILITY OF ASSIGNMENT OF ADDITIONAL JUDGES TO SPEED TRIALS IN OKINAWA.

2. EMBASSY DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH FONOFF SEEKING MEETING
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WITH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS. (REF B). FONOFF

(NUMATA, FIRST AMERICAN DIV) INFORMED EMBASSY THAT PROBABLY
AS RESULT OF EMBASSY AND FONOFF ACTION MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE IS DISPATCHING OFFICIALS FROM SUPREME COURT
SECRETARIAT TO OKINAWA FOR ON-SPOT STUDY OF SITUATION.
STUDY SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID-SEPTEMBER WHEN DISCUSSIONS
WITH EMBASSY ARE PLANNED.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

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